

GILA TOPMINNOW
(*Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis*)

STATUS: Endangered (32 FR 4001, March 11, 1967) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A small (2.5-5 cm (1-2 in) long), guppy-like, live-bearing fish (which lacks dark spots on its fins). Breeding males are jet black with yellow fins.

HABITAT: Occurs in small streams, springs, and cienegas below 1,350 m (4,500 ft) elevation, primarily in shallow areas with aquatic vegetation and debris for cover. Can tolerate relatively high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen.

RANGE: Historic: One of the most common fish found throughout the Gila River drainage in Arizona. Also extended into Mexico and New Mexico.

Current: Occurs only in Mexico and Arizona. In Arizona, most of the remaining native populations are in the Santa Cruz River system. Species occurs in small streams, springs, and cienegas in Gila, Pinal, Graham, Yavapai, Santa Cruz, Pima, Maricopa, and La Paz counties.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Impacts include the introduction and spread of nonindigenous predatory and competitive fishes, water impoundment and diversion, water pollution, groundwater pumping, stream channelization, and habitat modification.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, the States of Arizona and New Mexico, the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, and private.

NOTES: A Recovery Plan was approved in March 1984, with a revision currently in progress. A copy of the recovery plan is available online at

<http://ifw2es.fws.gov/Library/ListDocs.cfm?Topic=Endangered+Species&Section=EndangeredSpecies>

The species is currently being reared at over 100 locations for reestablishment into numerous sites in Arizona. The Gila topminnow has been released at almost 200 locations in efforts to reestablish populations.

Is a subspecies of the Sonoran topminnow.

Listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.